

T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
Oxford
Private

c. 1883

The Thomas W. Blades house differs from most of the other late nineteenth-century houses that line North Morris Street. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling was built directly on the street in the manner of an urban row house rather than with a common fifteen- to twenty-foot set back like other houses to each side. In addition the two-story facade was designed with a parapet front embellished with brackets and incised decoration rather than the more common hip or gable roof that covers other houses in Oxford. The parapet disguises a long sloping shed roof, which is also common to row house architecture. The Blades house, however, is not one of a dozen that distinguish this block. It is a single expression of a narrow row house architectural form, and therefore rare for the town of Oxford.

The Thomas W. Blades house was built at a time when prosperity had returned to this Tred Avon village. Estimated to date around 1883, the house was one of scores erected during the 1880s. Thomas W. Blades leased this lot from Philemon and Mary A. Willis in June 1883 and probably erected the house shortly thereafter. Although he and his wife Susanna sold the property five years later, it was purchased by Oswald Tilghman, who transferred it five months following his acquisition to Ella Francis Bratt for \$800. The house passed through numerous owners during the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth century. In 1973 the house and lot were acquired by Norman and Charlanne Harrington, who financed a modern addition to the north side of the row house form. Set back from the main facade of the Victorian house, the modern wing was

designed in a streamlined yet compatible fashion. With its set back from the street and landscaping in front, the modern addition was clearly conceived as a new, and at the same time, integral part of the old house.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas W. Blades House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-961

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-961
Magi No.
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas W. Blades House

and/or common Harrington House

2. Location

street & number 208 North Morris Street not for publication

city, town Oxford vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lisa Harrington and Stephen J. Moore

street & number P. O. Box 316 telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 564
liber 784

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio 831

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-961

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas W. Blades house is located at 208 North Morris Street in Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces west.

Dating around 1883, the two-story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of German siding and plain weatherboards. The main block is covered with a long sloping shed roof. Attached to the south side of the late nineteenth-century house is story-and-a-half addition of modern design which is set back from the street.

The west (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. Framing each window is a narrow beaded surround. The heavily molded front door is topped by a two-light transom, and the adjacent windows retain louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a chamfered post porch embellished with sawn corner brackets and a sawn baluster handrail. Covering the shallow pitched hip roof is a layer of seamed tin. The second floor is defined by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked with louvered shutters. The top of the front wall is finished with a bracketed parapet that disguises the long shed roof behind. A series of eave brackets are interspersed between decorative cornice panels incised with a repeating floral design. The cornice is trimmed with a crown molding.

The north side is marked by an asymmetrical placement of narrow two-over-two sash windows, and a two-story wing extends to the rear. Attached to the south side of the rear wing is a story-and-a-half addition that follows a modern design. The exterior of the addition is sheathed with vertical board siding.

The interior of the late nineteenth-century house has been extensively reworked with the turned baluster staircase as the only surviving original feature. A narrow turned newel post and a series of turned balusters support a molded handrail. The balance of the interior has been renewed with plain board door surrounds and hollow core doors.

The modern addition has a sunken living room behind a narrow paved vestibule. The ceiling is sloped and is open to a second floor space incorporated in the rear wing.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-961

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Thomas W. Blades house differs from most of the other late nineteenth-century houses that line North Morris Street. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling was built directly on the street in the manner of an urban row house rather than with a common fifteen- to twenty-foot set back like other house along Morris Street. In addition the two-story facade was designed with a parapet front embellished with brackets and incised decoration rather than the more common hip or gable roof that covers other houses in Oxford. The parapet disguises a long sloping shed roof, which is also common to row house architecture. The Blades house, however, is not one of a dozen that distinguish this block. It is a single expression of a narrow row house architectural form, and therefore rare for the town of Oxford.

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¹ Talbot County Land Record, Lease 96/342, 1 June 1883.

² Talbot County Land Record, TH 108/192, 25 May 1888.

³ Talbot County Land Record, 109/146, 26 October 1888.

Survey No. T-961

PS-2746

T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
208 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 563

784/831 Stacey Harrington Renner and Rodney C. Renner
and Lisa Harrington Moore and Stephen J. Moore

to

8/12/1994 Lisa Harrington Moore
Stephen J. Moore

669/763 Stacey Harrington Renner
Lisa Harrington Moore

to

5/12/1984 Stacey Harrington Renner
Rodney C. Renner
½ undivided interest

Lisa Harrington Moore
Stephen J. Moore
½ undivided interest

669/759 Stacey Harrington Renner
Lisa Harrington Moore, Personal Representative
of Charlanne E. Harrington, deceased (died 5/23/1988)

to

5/12/1989 Stacey Harrington Renner
Lisa Harrington Moore
(the said Norman Harrington died on or about 9/17/1987)

T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
208 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

478/691 George M. Kousoulas
 Martha C. Kousoulas

to

10/23/1973 Norman W. Harrington
 Charlanne E. Harrington

457/178 Erving D. Hardy

to

10/13/1971 George M. Kouzoulas
 Martha C. Kouzoulas

\$19,500.00

439/671 Elsie Lenore Sheffield, widow

to

11/12/1969 Erving D. Hardy

TSF 250/253 Russell D. Cooper
 Edith Cooper

to

7/1/1941 Mason H. Sheffield
 Lenore Sheffield, City of New York
 (the leasehold interest being conveyed to the said Russell
 D. Cooper by Henry Herbert Balch, trustee, 7/18/1939
 TFJ 244/428)

T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
208 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

250/252 Sophia D. Ritter

to

6/30/1941 Russell D. Cooper

TH 125/126 Sarah E. Williams and William H. H. Williams

to

12/31/1895 Sidney J. Cooper

\$800.00

TH 113/88 Ella Francis Bratt and William J. Bratt, Baltimore City

to

7/1/1890 Sarah E. Williams, wife of William H. H. Williams

\$850.00

109/146 Oswald Tilghman

to

10/26/1888 Ella Francis Bratt

\$800.00

T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
208 North Morris Street
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 4

TH 108/192 Thomas W. Blades
 Susanna A. Blades

to

5/25/1888 Oswald Tilghman

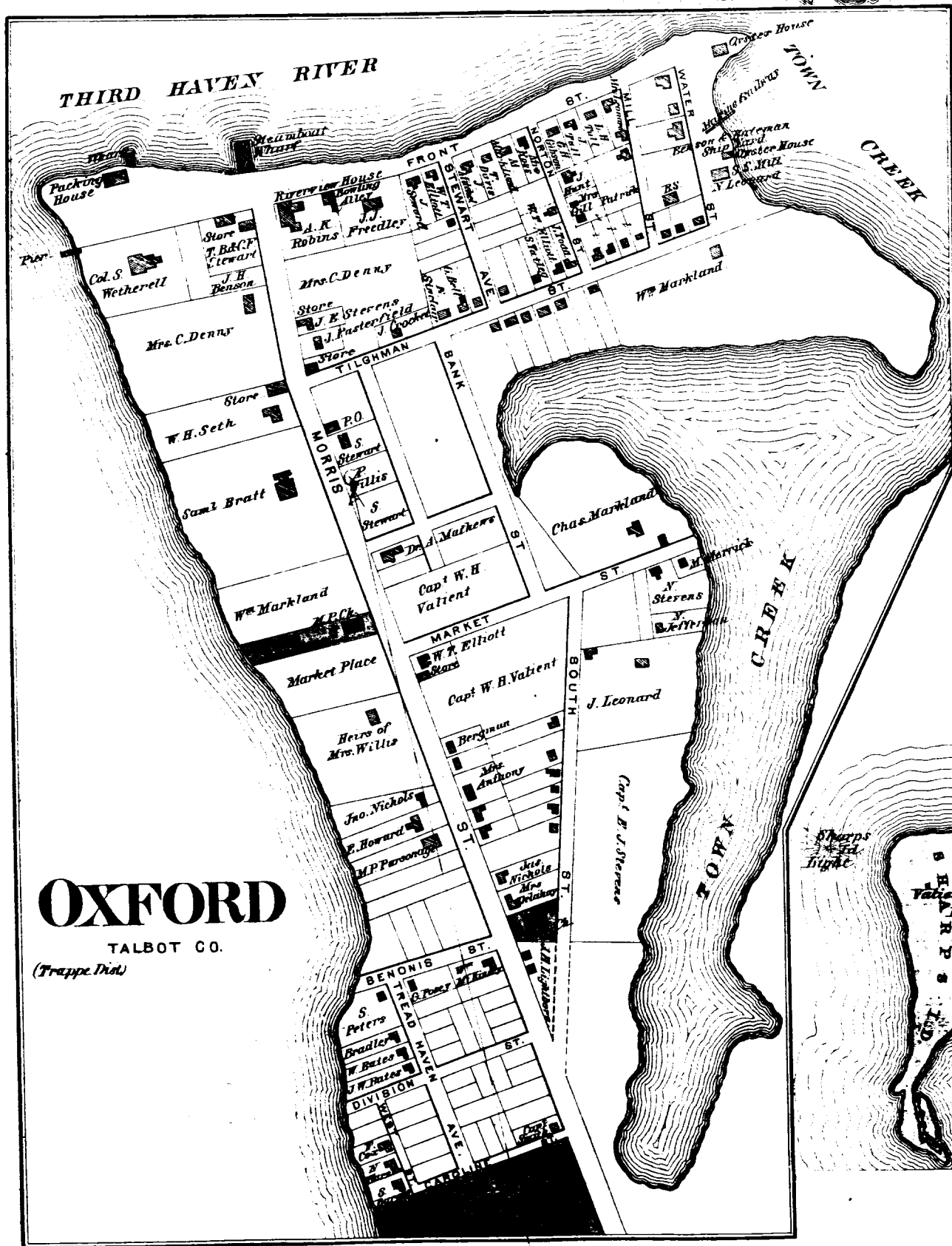
Lease Philemon Willis
96/342 Mary A. Willis

to

6/1/1883 Thomas W. Blades

\$25 Leasehold

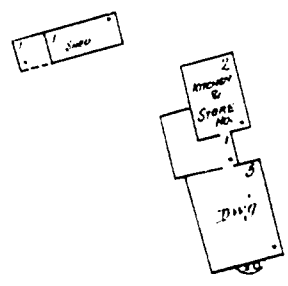
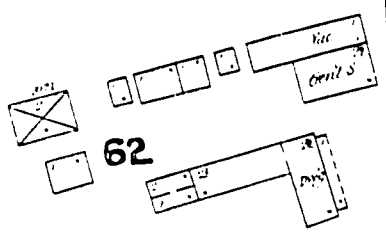
JAMES N. WESTON & SPEAKMAN, Proprietors of Steam Saw Mill. Manufacturers of Native Lumber. Custom Sawing done to order. Mill near Hambleton.



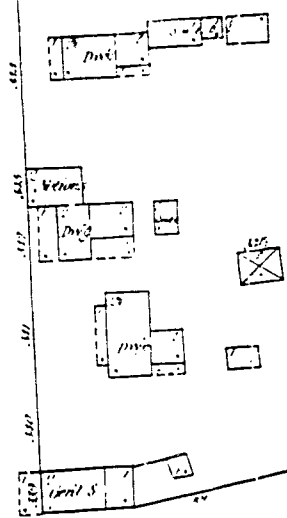
T-961

Thomas W. Blades House

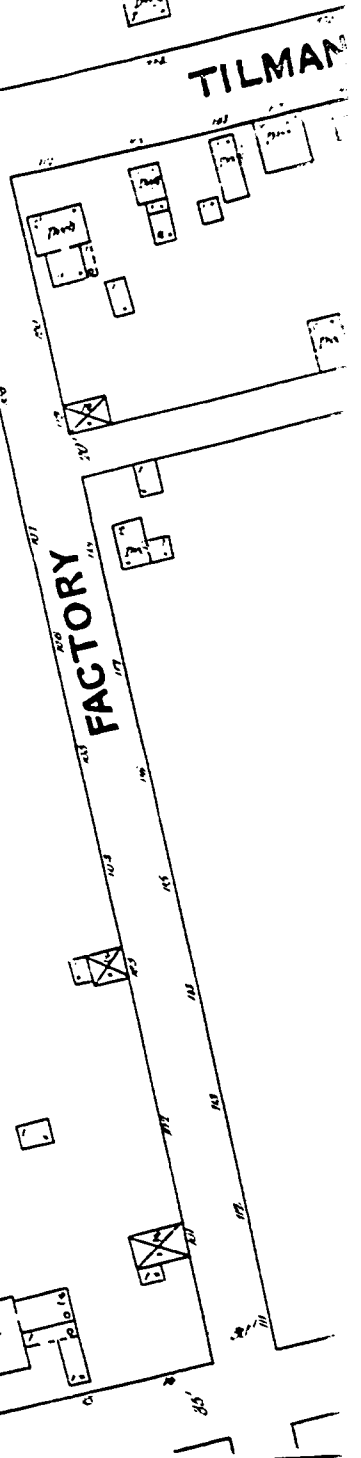
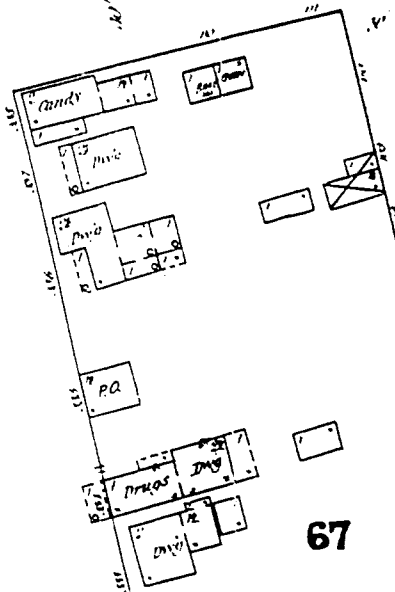
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



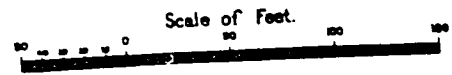
MORRIS



TILMAN



T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
Sanborn Insurance Map 1891



1891

SEE SHEET



T-961
Thomas W. Blades House
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



T. 961

THOMAS W. BLAKE'S HOUSE
OYKROO, TACOMA COUNTY, MD.

WEST ELEVATION OF PORCH

5/98, PAUL TOWNAT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 2



† - 961

THOMAS W. BLAKE HOUSE
OYAKO, TALBOT CO., MD
WEST ELEVATION.

2/18, FROM THOMAS BLAKE HOUSE
MAY/NO HISTORIC TRUST

2 OF 2